

The boys took me about and proudly showed me their homes. They were living in "liberated" Bavarian houses—schlosses that have lovely decorative paintings on the outside walls representing fairy tales, religious themes, etc. We looked up to Bavarian gables that were quaint, artistic sights.

The little village looks as if it never knew there was such a thing as war; the only evidence of it is the presence of the G.I.s.

Where Patton Lived

General Patton lives across the lake in a "liberated" villa. Patton was away—we did not see him.

I observed kindling wood piled neatly against a house. It was the most orderly stacking of wood I have ever seen. The edges looked as if they had been filed, so neatly were they arranged. The village as usual was spotless.

We motored down the autobahn through the beautiful Bavarian country, passing the Chiam See, large mountain lake.

All the bridges on the way were blown out by the retreating Germans but our Army had quickly constructed detours. We were continually greeted with signs, "This detour constructed by the 101st Engineers," etc., etc., showing that our Army engineers have great pride in their work.

Scenes in Austria

Arrived at Salzburg, Austria, in time for lunch and were quartered at a fine hotel with attractive rooms. Everywhere we saw lines upon lines of American trucks. There were hundreds of demolished German planes on an airfield there. The only damage done to Salzburg was to the beautiful cathedral.

When lunching with General Keyes, in command of the Salzburg area, he told us the population in the Salzburg area was around a million and a half and that there were some 400,000 Poles who refused to go home. Rumanians who did not like Tito's politics were also staying on.

Hitler's Hideaway

Then came an important visit—to Hitler's mountain retreat.

After lunch we motored to Berchtesgaden. Driving up the mountainside to Obersalzburg, Hitler's headquarters, we saw his home, which was demolished. The hotel where the Nazis stayed when visiting Hitler, and Goering's and Hitler's homes were in shambles. This Nazi center took a terrific beating.

We then motored up from Obersalzburg to Hitler's aerie, winding around the mountain through the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen. Arriving at a place 400 feet from the top of the mountain, we walked through a tunnel, 400 feet long and 10 feet wide, carved out of solid rock. It led to the entrance of a passage and we saw two solid bronze doors 10 feet wide. We entered a huge solid brass elevator and ascended through a shaft cut through solid rock 400 feet to the Nazi "Eagle's Nest."

The "Eagle's Nest" consists of a 60-foot semi-oval reception room. In the center is a huge table. Here Hitler laid out his maps and planned his campaigns.

To the left of the large reception room was a long beam-ceiling conference room with an immense table and 28 chairs where the staff assembled.

Adjacent was a breakfast room and toilets, and a kitchen with all modern equipment. A veranda ran around the entire house. A large fireplace in the conference room, 15 feet wide, was done in beautiful marble. In front of the fireplace was a large sofa and many armchairs. To the left, down 8 feet, we entered a "pickled pine" library about 25 x 20 feet, containing a sofa with 7 soft chairs.